

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00130 310806Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 ISO-00 CPR-01 /015 W
-----310814Z 120028 /17

R 310445Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2265
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0130

LIMDIS

FRANKFURT FOR FRDCO

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/EX

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ACOM, PFOR, PINR, PINS, US, QA
SUBJ: ATTEMPTED X-RAY OF COURIER POUCHES BY QATARI CUSTOMS
OFFICIALS

REF: DOHA 0094, DOHA A-2 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. ON JAN 29 AMBASSADOR FOLLOWED UP NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY

AND LETTER TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER (COPIES POUCHES AS
ENCLOSURES TO REPAIR) ON ATTEMPTED X-RAY OF COURIER POUCHES
WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ISSA AL KAWARI. AMBASSADOR
REITERATED INADMISSIBILITY OF QATARI ATTEMPT. KAWARI RESPONDED
THAT REQUESTED INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO PREVENT
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RECURRENCE OF INCIDENT.

2. KAWARI THEN EXPLAINED THAT GOQ HAD TIGHTENED PROCEDURES
ON DIPLOMATIC COURIERS AND POUCHES FOR INTERNAL SECURITY
REASONS. HE SAID THESE PROCEDURES WERE DIRECTED MAINLY AT
LIBYANS AND IRAQIS TO PREVENT THEIR SMUGGLING ARMS AND SUB-
VERSIVE LITERATURE INTO COUNTRY. ACCORDING KAWARI, INSPECTION

OF OTHER COUNTRIES' DIPLOMATIC MAIL WAS COSMETIC COVER FOR ACTION AGAINST IRAQIS AND LIBYANS TO PRESERVE FACADE OF EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ALTHOUGH WE APPRECIATED GOQ'S PROBLEM, WE COULD NOT SUBMIT TO THIS PRACTICE FOR ANY REASON, AND THAT GOQ MUST REALIZE THAT ITS ACCEPTANCE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ALSO REQUIRED ACCEPTANCE OF DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES SUCH AS UNIMPEDED POUCH SERVICE.

4. KAWARI REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND GOQ'S OBLIGATIONS IN THIS REGARD, AND ASSURED THAT OUR COURIERS AND POUCHES WOULD NOT BE IMPEDED AGAIN. HE SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH AMIR HIMSELF.

5. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOQ OFFICIALS IN ATTEMPTING TO INSPECT DIPLOMATIC MAIL ARE OPERATING UNDER DIRECT ORDERS OF THE AMIR, WHO MOST SENSITIVE TO THREAT FROM ARAB RADICAL REGIMES. BECAUSE OF THIS, KAWARI'S ASSURANCES NOTWITHSTANDING, WE COULD ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES IN FUTURE ALTHOUGH WE HAVE MADE OUR POSITION FORCEFULLY CLEAR TO GOQ.
PAGANELLI

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: ATTEMPTED X-RAY OF COURIER POUCHES BY QATARI CUSTOMS OFFICIALS
TAGS: ACOM, PFOR, PINR, PINS, US, QA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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